

sonians as pro-southern and anti-black, and Michael Fellman offers a captivating study of the popular images that northern and southern settlers in Kansas had of each other (subhuman "Pukes" and "nigger-stealing" Yankees) and of themselves (chosen saviors of Puritan morality and Constitutional order).

Obviously a collection like this is bound to be uneven. Ronald Walters' opening essay on the "Boundaries of Abolitionism" is so brilliantly wide-ranging and concerned with establishing continuities that one is left with virtually no boundaries at all. Donald Scott's essay on "Abolition as a Sacred Vocation" suffers from too much religious analysis and not enough examples of sacred vocations. Alan Kraut's noble attempt to rescue the reputation of the Liberty party fails through an excess of methodological zeal. His social profile is based upon insufficient quantitative data and is internally contradictory.

Overall, however, *Antislavery Reconsidered* admirably succeeds, as Perry and Fellman hoped, in treating abolitionism as "an *historical* subject" and not for "its resemblance . . . to modern movements." Our knowledge and insights are enhanced not just about antislavery but about a fascinating and wide variety of intellectual, cultural, and social phenomena in antebellum American life. Any connections to the 1960s are left to the interpretive imagination of the reader. (And they are there.)

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The Imperiled Union: Essays on the Background of the Civil War. By Kenneth M. Stampp. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980. Pp. xv, 320. Notes, index. \$15.95.)

Kenneth M. Stampp, whom students of Indiana history will recognize as the author of an early study of Hoosier politics during the Civil War, has compiled a volume of eight interpretive essays, six of which have previously appeared in print between 1945 and 1978. Organized under four basic headings, each comprised of from one to three chapters, these pieces focus upon the issues central to the antebellum and Civil War years: the nature of the federal union, the effects of slavery upon its immediate victims, the birth of the Republican party, Lincoln's presidential nomination and his subsequent role during the secession crisis, the North-South dichotomy, the defeat of the Confederacy.

Because only Chapter IV ("Race, Slavery and the Republican Party of the 1850's") and Chapter VII ("The Irrepressible Conflict") are here published for the first time, the remaining six essays restate and reiterate previously held views and, thus, offer little that is new to scholars. To be sure, however, these essays have been revised and refined in the light of new and additional scholarship since their original publication.

Whether in book or article form, Stamp's scholarship has stimulated critical response. *The Imperiled Union* will undoubtedly also generate further critical discussion. He strongly castigates, for example, Stanley Elkins' *Slavery* as well as Robert Fogel's and Stanley Engerman's *Time on the Cross*. In fact, he rather convincingly demolishes their hypotheses, assertions, and conclusions, all of which should provoke further rebuttal. Again, in "The Southern Road to Appomattox" (Chapter VIII), Stamp argues, not very persuasively, that many southerners were not averse to a Union victory over the Confederacy. Finally, in "The Irrepressible Conflict," he offers again quite convincingly, the view that the antislavery movement and the proslavery response each produced their own internal dynamics which made for an irrepressible conflict during the antebellum era.

The Imperiled Union is highly interpretive, strongly historiographical, and an interesting and worthwhile addition to the existing literature. Only two lapses in proofreading are discernible: "patry" for "party" (p. 107) and "stiring" for "stirring" (p. 194). Somewhat puzzling is Stamp's failure to cite Herbert Gutman's *Slavery and the Numbers Game* anywhere in Chapter III ("Time on the Cross") or in its notes. One caveat should be added: Stamp's excellent craftsmanship and fine literary style may well mesmerize the unsuspecting or incautious reader to concur with his views, which have been brilliantly argued. In any case, this volume will provide several hours of delightful, stimulating, and rewarding reading.

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The Orphan Brigade: The Kentucky Confederates Who Couldn't Go Home. By William C. Davis. (Garden City: Doubleday & Company, 1980. Pp. xv, 318. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$12.95.)

Kentuckians have always believed that they were Americans *sui generis*. Spawned from Virginia, descended from